



U.S. FISH & WILDLIFE SERVICE

Carterville Fishery Resources Office (CFRO)

Accomplishment Report: October 2004

The Carterville Fishery Resources Office (CFRO) conserves, protects, and enhances aquatic ecosystems throughout Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, and parts of Missouri by working with others to protect and restore habitat, improve sport fishing, manage and control aquatic nuisance species, and conserve and restore native aquatic species (particularly interjurisdictional fish such as sturgeon and paddlefish).

Our recent activities are summarized below, but for additional information or questions please feel free to contact us:

Rob Simmonds, Project Leader
Greg Conover, Assistant Project Leader
Judy Patrick, Administrative Technician
Nathan Caswell, Fishery Biologist
Colby Wrasse, Fishery Biologist

Carterville Fishery Resources Office
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
9053 Route 148, Suite A
Marion, IL 62959
(618) 997- 6869
Fax (618) 997-9185

DCN: USFWS-CFRO-05-005



Fishery Biologist Colby Wrasse sets a fyke net in Swan Lake on Two Rivers NWR (pg. 6).

Partnerships & Accountability

Other Activities

- Simmonds met with Dan Frisk, Refuge Manager, Crab Orchard National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) to discuss opportunities for collaboration. Our office is located on Crab Orchard NWR which makes collaboration a snap. CFRO is providing office space during renovations at the refuge headquarters building, Frisk offered assistance from his staff for our fieldwork on the refuge, and we are discussing joint outreach opportunities.
- Caswell completed FY04 Station Volunteer Services Report. Volunteers contributed 125 hours of service for CFRO, primarily fieldwork and administrative assistance.
- Conover and Simmonds provided responses to the Sport Fishing and Boating Partnership Council's Fishery Program Evaluation.
- CFRO staff participated in Crab Orchard NWR monthly Staff/Safety Meeting.
- Conover and Simmonds prepared a budget projections for FY05, including a budget management plan to address projected shortfalls.
- Conover, Patrick, and Simmonds participated in a monthly CFRO budget meeting.
- Conover and Simmonds finalized FONS project proposals for FY05.
- Caswell addressed several findings of recent CFRO safety and environmental compliance audit and began preparing station safety plan, including: Hazard Communication Plan, Blood Borne Pathogen Exposure Control Plan, and Chemical Hygiene Plan.

Aquatic Species Conservation & Management

Asian Carp Management and Control Plan Update – Goals Revised

A Management and Control Plan for "Asian carp" (i.e., bighead carp, silver carp, grass carp, and black carp) is being developed by multiple resource management partners and stakeholders to integrate prevention and control activities across the nation to limit the further distribution and negative impacts of these four aquatic nuisance species. In October, Conover distributed notes from the Asian Carp Work Group's May meeting. Actions were taken on a number of items identified during the meeting, including revising the draft goals and objectives for the Management and Control Plan. The revised goals and objectives were distributed to the Work Group members for review and further development. Considerable discussion has resulted and appropriate time and effort are being invested into developing goals and objectives that will ensure stakeholder buy-in and participation in the implementation of the plan. Stakeholders are engaged in fundamental discussions to develop the goals and objectives for the plan. The plan is expected to come together relatively quick once the goals and objectives are finalized. – *Greg Conover*

Largemouth Bass Harvested and Stocked into Crab Orchard Lake

Crab Orchard Lake is a 7,000-acre impoundment on Crab Orchard NWR. It is a popular destination for anglers, host to several fishing tournaments each year, and important to the local economy. The Illinois Department of Natural Resources (DNR), CFRO, and Crab Orchard NWR cooperatively manage this recreational fishery. The lake is a popular spot for largemouth bass fishing and supplemental stocking is important to maintaining the quality of bass fishing. A pond located on Crab Orchard NWR is used by the Illinois DNR to grow bass for stocking. Every fall, the Illinois DNR, CFRO, and numerous volunteers drain the pond, collect the bass fingerlings, and stock them in Crab Orchard Lake. This year, Caswell, Conover, and Simmonds helped to harvest and stock approximately 12,500 largemouth bass fingerlings into Crab Orchard Lake, making for a successful year in the rearing pond and promising good bass fishing in the coming years. – Nate Caswell



Illinois DNR, CFRO, along with volunteers harvest bass fingerlings from a rearing pond for stocking into Crab Orchard Lake.



Fishery Biologist Nate Caswell operates an electrofishing system on Crab Orchard Lake.

Annual Fall Sport Fish Survey on Crab Orchard Lake

Crab Orchard Lake on the Crab Orchard NWR is well known for good panfish and bass fishing. Part of maintaining that fishery is conducting an annual fall fish survey. On October 13, 2004, two crews from the Illinois DNR and one crew from CFRO (Caswell and Simmonds) set out to sample the lake. Each crew was responsible for electrofishing four sites for 30 minutes each. Based on the four sites sampled by CFRO, there are several places to catch good size largemouth bass, hybrid striped bass, and loads of sunfish. Projects such as this help to reinforce the Service's partnerships with other

natural resource agencies and the Service's commitment to providing quality fishing opportunities. – *Nate Caswell*

Walleye Management in Lake Greenwood - Crane Naval Weapons Support Center

CFRO, in cooperation with the Indiana DNR and Crane Naval Weapons Support Center DNR, has worked to create a walleye fishery at Lake Greenwood. Located on Crane Naval Weapons Support Center, Lake Greenwood has received walleye fingerlings from Genoa NFH (National Fish Hatchery) since 2000, including 800, 5.5-in. walleye this fall. In addition, CFRO completed a fall walleye survey at Lake Greenwood using boat electrofishing. Crane Naval Weapons Support Center DNR and a volunteer assisted with the two night survey. The data collected will be used to assess the walleye population and the effectiveness of walleye stocking at Lake Greenwood aiding lake managers in determining future stocking needs and setting fishing regulations. – *Nate Caswell*



Fishery Biologist Nate Caswell removes a scale sample from a walleye captured in Lake Greenwood located on Crane Naval Weapons Support Center.

Wrasse Assists Iron River NFH with Lake Trout and Brook Trout Spawning.



Fishery Biologist Colby Wrasse holds one of nearly 800 lake trout spawned by Iron River NFH to produce fish for the Great Lakes.

Iron River NFH annually spawns hundreds of lake trout and brook trout to help restore populations of each to the Great Lakes. This year, Wrasse helped spawn over 750 lake trout, producing over 3 million eggs. These eggs will be reared for 18 months at various hatcheries, and the resulting trout will be stocked into lakes Superior, Huron, and Michigan. Hopefully these fish will grow to produce their own eggs and young out in the lakes about 8 years from now. In addition, about 50 brook trout were spawned producing 58,000 eggs and ultimately thousands of fish for Lake Superior streams.
– Rob Simmonds

Other Activities

- Conover worked with Rock Island Field Office contaminants biologist to discuss development of an Asian carp contaminants field investigation in the Illinois River and to explore opportunities related to a sturgeon intersex investigation in the Middle Mississippi River.
- Caswell conducted grass carp inspections at Logan Hollow Fish Farm and Fountain Bluff Fish Farm, both near Murphysboro, IL.
- Conover and Simmonds participated on a conference call with Columbia FRO staff (Tracy Hill and Jo Anne Grady) to discuss continued management of the MICRA paddlefish tagging database and development of an annual report. Also discussed were management areas for each of the stations, specifically, which station would provide technical assistance to Mingo NWR and Port Louisa NWR.
- Conover assisted Tennessee Tech. Univ. by reading a recaptured coded wire tag from a paddlefish collected in Kentucky Lake and linking the fish to its original capture and tagging in 1996 in the Wabash River near Mt. Vernon, Indiana.
- Conover provided the Corp of Engineers information to develop a fact sheet on Asian Carp relative to fish barriers and passage on the Upper Mississippi River.

Aquatic Habitat Conservation & Management

Second Annual Fish Survey of Lower Swan Lake on Two Rivers NWR



Fishery Biologist Colby Wrasse sets fyke net in Swan Lake on Two Rivers NWR.

Swan Lake, located on Two Rivers NWR, is a large backwater lake of the Illinois River. The lake is the site of a recent Upper Mississippi River Environmental Management Program Habitat Rehabilitation Project. The lake was subdivided into three units to provide for water control independent of the Illinois River. CFRO and managers from Two Rivers NWR began a long-term program to monitor the fishery at Swan Lake beginning with sampling in 2003 and including a survey in October 2004. Sampling included trammel nets, fyke nets, and electrofishing. This survey will provide data on the long-term trends of the fish community in Lower Swan Lake. Preliminary analyses of data from the 2004 survey indicate that populations of sport fish, especially black crappie, are beginning to rebuild since the lake was drained in 2002. CFRO will provide a summary of this survey to Two Rivers NWR. – *Nate Caswell*

Carterville FRO assists SIUC with “tagging week” at Two Rivers NWR

CFRO assisted Southern Illinois University – Carbondale (SIUC) graduate students with their “tagging week” activities at Two Rivers NWR. Two SIUC students, Doug Schultz and Kelly DeGrandchamp, are currently conducting studies on the movements of largemouth bass, catfish, common carp, bighead carp, and silver carp in Swan Lake and the Illinois River at Two Rivers NWR in response to a habitat rehabilitation project. Caswell and Simmonds spent 2 days electrofishing in Swan Lake and the Illinois River and captured the remaining catfish and silver carp needed from the Illinois River and several of the catfish and carp needed from Swan Lake. – *Nate Caswell*



A silver carp captured in Swan Lake on Two Rivers NWR.

Illinois Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Plan Coming Together

Simmonds participated in a workshop on the Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Plan being developed by the Illinois DNR and its partners. Once completed, this plan will serve as a guiding document for the conservation, restoration, and effective management of all fish and wildlife in Illinois. Based on extensive information that Illinois DNR compiled, major "stresses" were identified allowing them to identify causes and remedies for them. In the end, this plan will be used to prioritize projects in the state to address major stresses for the benefit of all wildlife. Other participants included US Forest Service, The Wildlife Society, Sierra Club, Audubon, and The Nature Conservancy. The presentation that was given and more information can be found at <http://dnr.state.il.us/orc/wildliferesources/theplan/> or you can call Jeff Walk, Illinois DNR, at (217)782-6384. – Rob Simmonds

Fish Passage Coordination Meeting with Ohio DNR

Simmonds and other USFWS-Fisheries staff attended a fish passage coordination meeting with the Ohio DNR to exchange information and discuss Ohio's fish passage program, with particular emphasis on Ballville Dam. Ballville Dam, on the Sandusky River, blocks passage of walleye to spawning grounds that, if opened, would provide a major boost to the Lake Erie walleye population. The dam also blocks passage of a number of other native fish.

Other Activities

- Wrasse completed a draft report on sturgeon habitat utilization of the Middle Mississippi River NWR.
- Wrasse aged fish from Swan Lake on Two Rivers NWR to evaluate the effectiveness of an HREP habitat restoration project.
- Caswell completed CFRO's portion of the Swan Lake Interim Report for US Army Corps of Engineers - St. Louis District.
- Conover participated in an Ohio River Main Stem Studies multi-agency coordination team meeting in Frankfort, Kentucky.
- Caswell worked with Illinois DNR to finalize plans for the Big Rock Creek Fish Passage Project.
- Caswell worked on data analysis for Crab Orchard Lake Contaminants Project.

Workforce Management

Other Activities

- All full-time CFRO staff participated in a staff meeting to discuss/resolve administrative issues and to continue discussing the future of CFRO, including the identification, development, and completion of projects. This was the first staff meeting since Simmonds came on board as the station's new Project Leader and provided an important opportunity for the staff to come together and discuss issues related to CFRO.